Position
Researcher 4
(UMN Classification #8352R4)

Reports To
Director, Metropolitan Design Center

Appointment
Temporary, part-time positions varying in percent time and duration, depending on the project.

Summary
The Metropolitan Design Center seeks qualified candidates for various research projects. Positions are academic professional appointments at the level of Researcher 4 (UMN Civil Service Classification #8352R4). These are temporary positions and vary in percent time and duration, depending on the project. Renewal is dependent upon performance, funding, and the needs of the Metropolitan Design Center. Positions are responsible for assisting with planning, designing, and/or conducting the day-to-day research and outreach functions of the Metropolitan Design Center in collaboration with the center director and Project Investigators. We are committed to attracting candidates from historically underrepresented groups knowing that diversity enriches the academic experience and provides a knowledge base for innovation.

Responsibilities

Participate in Research Projects (60%)
- Develop and maintain knowledge regarding the Center's and the College of Design’s programs and goals, and emerging trends within any or all of the Center’s research and outreach areas.
- Work with the Principle Investigators to achieve the benchmarks and goals of individual projects.
- Participate in the design, implementation, and evaluation of Center research and outreach projects; integrate diversity in research activities.
- Participate in set-up meetings with clients; conceptualize and produce design proposals in conjunction with the Director and/or PIs and give presentations to clients related to assigned projects.
- Construct models that clarify the design outcomes of specific research topics. Create and critique designs at the urban scale.
- Research precedents, case studies, and applications specific to project topics.
- Visually communicate and refine raw data in the form of charts, infographics, and geospatial mapping.
- Monitor, track and record project outcomes.
- Participate in the analysis of data that informs project work.
- Identify, work with, and build relationships with project partners to implement research design, in accordance with Center goals.
- Give day-to-day supervision to graduate research assistants and unpaid interns.
- Collect, review and refine student work from classes related to the Center’s research.
- Contribute to writing grant proposals.

Reporting and Publication (25%)
- Collaborate on writing and preparing presentations of findings.
- Assist with writing reports and publications for funders and potential funders.
- Collect and analyze data, compile information, research and provide data; write and/or co-author, review, and edit publications, such as professional publications and academic journals, conference papers, etc. Contribute to Center website.
Communication (15%)
• Build and maintain relationships with key partners and internal university colleagues.
• Serve as an ambassador and represent the Center, College and University to partners and non-University colleagues.
• Participate in presenting project data and outcomes to funders and project partners.
• Give public lectures and/or presentations regarding Center projects.
• Participate in studio or class reviews related to MDC goals and initiatives.
• May give guest lectures to MDC educational program courses.

Other Responsibilities
• Participate in Center planning meetings.
• Keep current with emerging information in the discipline through professional journal and publications, seminars, webinars, etc.

Required Qualifications
• Master’s degree in architecture, landscape architecture or urban design and planning.
• Demonstration of strong design abilities on an urban scale.
• Working knowledge of computer design communications, including ArcGIS, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign, and Adobe Illustrator.
• Strong written and verbal communication abilities.
• Interest in research-informed, publicly-engaged design.
• Ability to relate effectively with students, co-research fellows, community constituencies, and university colleagues.

Preferred Qualifications
• Extensive knowledge of urban design principles and techniques.
• Previous research experience preferred.
• Previous professional practice or internship experience with a landscape architecture or architectural firm.

About the College of Design and the Metropolitan Design Center
Located in one of the major design cities and in one of the largest research universities in the U.S., the College of Design encompasses the full range of design disciplines at the University of Minnesota and is home to seven undergraduate majors, 22 graduate degree programs, nine centers, and the Goldstein Museum of Design. The faculty, students and staff in the college seek to advance the quality and value of the natural, designed, and social environments with an emphasis on sustainable, socially responsible, civically engaged, user-sensitive, critical and collaborative design work.

http://www.design.umn.edu

The College of Design's Metropolitan Design Center (MDC) The Metropolitan Design Center (MDC) investigates and develops strategies for designing a more livable and sustainable metropolitan region, working in collaboration with faculty, design and planning firms, nonprofits and governmental agencies. Recent research and design projects have addressed issues of metropolitan development and green space, affordable and high density housing, and active and healthy cities. The MDC is nationally recognized through publications and awards. More information about the MDC’s mission, projects, publications, and staff is available online: http://www.designcenter.umn.edu/.
How To Apply
Applications must be submitted online at http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/employment. Enter job #302180 in keyword search. To be considered for this position, please click the Apply button and follow the instructions. You will have the opportunity to complete an online application for the position and attach a cover letter and resume. Additional documents may be attached after application by accessing your “My Activities” page and uploading documents there.

Please attach a cover letter describing your research experience and other qualifications for the position; a current resume; PDF portfolio/work samples (no more than 10 pages in length); and names and contact information for three professional references.

Applications will be maintained throughout the year and will be reviewed as positions become available.

Diversity
The University recognizes and values the importance of diversity and inclusion in enriching the employment experience of its employees and in supporting the academic mission. The University is committed to attracting and retaining employees with varying identities and backgrounds.

The University of Minnesota provides equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. To learn more about diversity at the U: http://diversity.umn.edu. To request an accommodation during the application process, please e-mail employ@umn.edu or call (612) 624-UOHR (8647).

Background Check Information
Any offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of a background check. Our presumption is that prospective employees are eligible to work here. Criminal convictions do not automatically disqualify finalists from employment.